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What is claimed is:

1. (original) A device for locating metallic objects, with at least one transmit coil (116) and at least one receive turn system (112, 114; 212, 214), which are inductively coupled to one another,

wherein

electrical switching means (1,..., 8; 1'a, 2'a, 3'a, 1'b, 2'b, 3'b) are provided, which make it possible to vary the effective number of turns of the at least one receive turn system (112, 114; 212, 214).

(original) The device as recited in Claim 1,
wherein
the effective number of turns of the at least one receive coil (112, 114; 212, 214)
is variable by connecting or disconnecting electrical conductor modules.

3. (original) The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the switching means (1,..., 8; 1'a, 2'a, 3'a, 1'b, 2'b, 3'b) are located between turns (113, 213) of a first receive coil (112, 212) and turns (115, 215) of a second receive coil (114, 214).

- 4. (original) The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein jumpers (1', 2', 3') with switching means (1'a, 2'a, 3'a, 1'b, 2'b, 3'b) are located between receive coil turns (213', 215') with a different radius R_a or R_b.
- 5. (currently amended) The device as recited in Claim 1 or 3 Claim 1, wherein the switching means (1,...,8) or jumpers (1', 2', 3') are realized using solder bridges.
- 6. (currently amended) The device as recited in Claim 1 or 3 Claim 1, wherein

the switching means (1,...,8; 1'a, 2'a, 3'a, 1'b, 2'b, 3'b) are realized using semiconductor components.

- 7. (original) The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein at least two receive coils (112, 114; 212, 214) are located coaxially relative to each other.
- 8. (original) The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein at least two receive coils (112, 114; 212, 214) are located in a plane.
- 9. (currently amended) The device as recited in Claim 5 [[or 6]], wherein at least two receive coils (112, 114; 212, 214) are designed as printed circuit coils, particularly on a printed circuit board.
- 10. (currently amended) The device as recited in Claim 6 and 9, wherein the switching means (1,...,8; 1'a, 2'a, 3'a, 1'b, 2'b, 3'b) are realized using semiconductor switches on the printed circuit board.
- 11. (original) The device as recited in Claim 8, wherein at least one transmit coil (116) is located in a plane which is positioned with a height offset and is parallel to at least one receive coil.
- 12. (currently amended) The device as recited in Claim 9 or 11, wherein at least one transmit coil (116) is installed on a bobbin, which is attached to the printed circuit board.
- 13. (currently amended) A measuring device, in particular a hand-held

locating device, with a device as recited in one or more of the Claims 1 through 12 Claim 1.

- 14. (currently amended) A tool device, in particular a drilling or chiseling tool, with a device as recited in one or more of the Claims 1 through 11 Claim 1.
- 15. (original) A method for operating an inductive compensation sensor (110, 210), with at least one transmit coil (116) and at least one receive turn system (112, 114; 212, 214), with which the adjustment of a voltage U induced in a receive coil (112, 114; 212, 214) takes place by connecting an adjustment turn system (113, 115; 213', 215') to the turns (113, 115; 213, 215) of the receive turn system (112, 114; 212, 214), this adjustment turn system (113, 115; 213', 215') including one or more compensation modules (220, 222, 224).
- 16. (original) The method as recited in Claim 15, with which, for each compensation module (220, 222, 224), it is possible to switch between m different alternative configurations (1'a, 2'a, 3'a, 1'b, 2'b, 3'b) of the electrical contacting.
- 17. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 15 [[or 16]], wherein

the adjustment turn system (113, 115; 213', 215') is composed of at least n (n=1 ... N) independent compensation modules KM_n (220, 222, 224), each having m(n) (m(n)=1 ... M(n)) different configurations, in which a voltage change $\Delta U_{n,m}$ is induced, with $\Delta U = (U(n,m) - U(n,m+1))$, in the receiving branch (212, 214) of the compensation sensor (210) by selectively switching between individual configurations m of a compensation module KM_n (220, 222, 224).

18. (original) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein

the compensation modules KM_n (220, 222, 224) are configured such that the voltage change $\Delta U_{n,m}$ differs from the voltage difference $\Delta U_{n-1,m}$, with $\Delta U_{n-1,m} = (U(n-1,m')-U(n-1,m'+1))$, of compensation module KM_{n-1} by the factor M(n-1),

with an ordinal number n reduced by one.

19. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 17 [[or 18]], wherein

binary coding with M(n)=2 is used for the compensation modules KM_n (220, 222, 224) of the adjustment turn system (113,115; 213', 215'), so that the relationship $\Delta U = (U(n,1) - U(n,2)) = 2*(U(n-1,1) - U(n-1,2))$ applies.